

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the present U.S. patent application. Claims 2-4 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled. In addition, claims 8-20, which were not elected by Applicants in response to Examiner's restriction requirement mailed February 17, 2005, have been canceled. Claims 21-32 have been added. Therefore, claims 1, 3-7 and 21-32 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102Rejections of Claims 1 and 6 based on *Takemi*

Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,805,629 issued to Takemi et al. (*Takemi*). Claim 2 includes allowable subject matter, and thus is not anticipated by *Takemi*. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance, and thus is not anticipated by *Takemi*. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claim 6 depends from 1. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicants submit that claim 6 is not anticipated by *Takemi* for at least the reasons set forth above.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103Rejection of Claim 5 based on *Takemi*

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Takemi*. As explained above, claim 1 has been amended to include allowable subject matter, and therefore is not rendered obvious by *Takemi*. Claim 5 depends from 1. Dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 5 is not rendered obvious by *Takemi* because it depends from claim 1.

Rejection of Claim 7 based on *Takemi* in view of *Akulova*

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Takemi* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,664,605 issued to Akulova et al. (*Akulova*). As explained above, claim 1 has been amended to include allowable subject matter, and therefore is not rendered obvious by *Takemi* in view of *Akulova*. Claim 7 depends from 1. Dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 7 is not rendered obvious by *Takemi* in view of *Akulova* because it depends from claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-4 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2, which has been canceled. Thus, claim 2 has been in effect rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the

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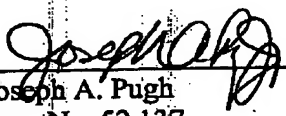
limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, resulting in new claim 21 from which new claims 22-26 depend. Finally, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, resulting in new claim 27 from which new claims 28-32 depend. Therefore, Applicants submit that new claims 21-32, along with existing claims 1 and 3-7, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1, 3-7 and 21-32 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joseph A. Pugh
Reg. No. 52,137

TriQuint Semiconductor, Inc.
2300 NE Brookwood Parkway
Hillsboro, OR 97124
(503) 615-9616

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